

Shaw-cum-Donnington

Parish Plan – Action Plan

Update of

November 2023

8 ACTION PLAN

Objective	Action	Priority (HML)	Timeline (SML)	Project Manager / Lead Partner	Other Partners	Justification	Progress /Completed
Safety in the Community							
Upgrade obsolete streetlights to improve footpath and car parking safety	Upgrade all streetlights in the Parish to LED	High	Short (<12 months)	Parish Council		Concerns of poorly lit areas	Upgrade of existing street light bulbs to LED completed 2019.
	Liaise with WBC for repair of St Marys Church car park streetlights	High	Short	Parish Council	WBC	Church car park has not had working streetlights for several years	Lights activated January 2021.
Reduce vehicle speeding within the Parish	Look for ways to aid traffic calming a) speed awareness education for drivers and, b) install meaningful speeding deterrents	High	Medium (12-24 months)	Parish Council	WBC	Significant and ongoing issues of speeding on local roads. Respondents asked for greater parish investment in traffic calming measures (34%) and speed reduction (57%)	Mobile Speed Indicator Device purchased and installed on rotation in 5 locations. Improved signage in various locations agreed with WBC in October 2023. Permanent VAS to be installed in Long Lane by WBC. Permission for permanent SID/VAS requested from WBC for Oxford Road. Community Speed Watch commenced in Summer 2023 in several locations.
Provide safe passage for pedestrians along Love Lane & at its junction with Oxford Road	Approach WBC to improve the safety of pedestrians when crossing Oxford Road	High	Medium	Parish Council	WBC	Residents' concerns for walking along Love Lane regarding a perceived danger in crossing Oxford Rd to Donnington Recreation Ground.	A new pavement inset for safer crossing at the chicane west of Northern Ave completed Spring 2022. PC asked WBC for a crossing on Oxford Road by the recreation ground / Castle pub; WBC feedback: no action taken after investigation; no safe place to install a crossing there and insufficient demand at that location. Update November 2023: due to recent perceived increase in pedestrians crossing the Oxford Rd near the recreation ground/Shop Lane, and residents' recent comments, PC is again going to pursue the option of some form of crossing with WBC in this location.
Review and improve Parish footpaths	Shaw Hill - improve lighting by cutting back overgrown trees	High	Medium	Parish Council	WBC	Hidden streetlights and overgrown vegetation resulting in poor lighting and a perceived feeling of unsafe transit,	Parish streetlights upgraded to LED 2019 & Church car park lights repaired 2021. Lamp Acres/ Love Lane western pavement

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						specifically Shaw Hill and Church Road	repaired by WBC 2020. Overgrown foliage on Shaw Hill largely cutback by WBC
	Consider extra streetlights	High	Medium	Parish Council			In Spring 2023 the council undertook a review of streetlights in a large part of the parish and problems with overhanging trees blocking streetlights reported to WBC; contractors cleared back trees but only to head height and not around the top of the lights; further request put to WBC and some tree top clearance was made in Autumn 2023. Identified extra streetlights needed on Shaw Hill.
	Ask WBC to improve the footpath on Oxford Road between The Castle pub & Donnington Valley Hotel	High	Long (2-5 years)	Parish Council	WBC	Unlit areas with no pavement or narrow paths and on-street parking issues in Oxford Road	WBC have advised this is a low priority and no funding is currently available. ScD PC have asked it be added to a 'wish list' should further CIL become available.
	Review all pavements to ascertain the issues and campaign with WBC for improvements	High	Medium	Parish Council	WBC	63% of respondents wanted greater investment in pavements, footpaths and bridleways, citing unlit areas with no pavements or cars half parked on narrow paths	WBC have advised the parish council that the pavement on Shaw Hill is not sufficiently uneven to warrant resurfacing. The Parish Council needs to undertake a survey of the other problem footpaths in the parish.
Consider a visible Parish presence to deter vandalism / anti-social behaviour and provide support to the community	Review options for implementing voluntary Neighbourhood Warden, campaign for Community Police to provide extra patrols	Med	Long	Parish Council		84% of respondents in favour of a uniformed neighbourhood warden for a visible presence to deter anti-social behaviour: two part-time people would be needed.	None of those questionnaire respondents who offered to volunteer came forward with names or contact details. If the Parish receives future reports of anti-social behaviour, it will liaise with TVP.
Improve public transport links for local residents	Push for provision of new bus services for the Parish and new houses	Med	Long	Parish Council	WBC/bus providers	59% of respondents wanted more bus services; respondents' priorities for PC investment included transport services and improved bus services	The developer contribution for a new bus route from the new estates has been agreed. ScD PC will be discussing this bus route with WBC.
A Healthy Community							

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Expansion of Donnington Recreation Ground playground	Provide additional play equipment when funds permit	High	Medium	Parish Council		77% of respondents supported improvements to the playground & 46% of wanted this to cater for a range of ages and multiple sports.	Completed. In 2019 a small addition to the playground was installed using donated money. In August 2021 a major expansion took place when the PC installed a large wooden climbing castle. In 2023 a new bench for seating and trees for shade were added to celebrate the Coronation.
Improve facilities available at the Cricket Pavilion in Donnington Recreation Ground	Review options for enhancements when funds permit	Med	Long	Parish Council			The pavilion has been rewired and electrical fittings have been updated in November 2023, to improve safety and conserve energy. The exterior will be painted soon.
Improve access for cyclists and pedestrians to the local countryside and town; move towards a linked system of walkways across the Parish	Review current routes in the Parish for requests to WBC, e.g. extending footpath from Donnington Valley Hotel to Fox & Hounds pub	Med	Long	Parish Council	WBC	87% of respondents regularly use parish footpaths and bridlepaths. Safe access for walkers and cyclists to the local countryside and town required to discourage use of cars	WBC is planning improved cycling and walking route from Love Lane to Newbury Town Centre as part of the new housing development and a cycling path is also being considered to link the Parish with Hermitage
	Review signage for cycle paths and pedestrian routes	Med	Short			50 respondents asked for better wayfinding posts & signage for navigation of footpaths	To be partly covered by the new WBC routes into Newbury from Love Lane
Reduce Isolation and loneliness; improve social cohesion in the Parish	Introduce trial community café sessions	High	Short	Parish Council	Village Hall Church	72% of respondents would like a local community café.	Since the winter of 2022/23 Shaw Church has run 'Myrtles Café' a warm space initiative in the Church Hall. After a summer break this has recommenced weekly for 2023/24.
	Expand the community use of the Village Hall	High	Long	Parish Council	Village Hall	93% of respondents said local facilities & social events should be available for various ages & social groups to address loneliness and encourage socialising within the community. Respondents' PC investment priorities were for direct spend on village facilities to link residents together & reduce	Greater use of the hall space is very limited until the Primary School moves to its new building, planned for the academic year of 2025-2026 (see Prosperous below). In the interim we will work to maximise the Parish assets we have for the community. The Council is helping to publicise the Village Hall events and classes with entries on its Parish webpage.

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						isolation, care of the elderly and create a community centre for all.	
	To investigate existing local walking clubs and publish information	Med	Med	Parish Council		87% of respondents regularly use the local paths and bridleways and 55 respondents wanted to join a local walking group.	
A Prosperous Area							
Look into the possible expansion of the Village Hall to enable it to increase the social facilities available to the community	Work with the Village Hall Committee to arrange a structural survey of the Village Hall, to ensure it is fit for the future	High	Long	Parish Council	Village Hall	44% were in favour of provision of more facilities at the Hall, plus upgrade for Wi-Fi. 75% of respondents in favour of a Parish Council tax increase to fund local improvements.	A recent structural survey in July 2022, showed the pre-1912 building is structurally sound. Building energy efficiency upgrade in progress Spring 2023.
	Look at possible acquisition of land to enable the hall to be expanded	High	Long	Parish Council	Hall, WBC, Diocese, local business & charities	No ground space to expand the building to provide additional services	It is no longer feasible for the Parish Council to purchase the old school buildings, but the PC is now hoping to work with the Village Hall Committee to enhance the facilities in the Village Hall, with a possible extension for additional meeting space and a larger catering kitchen. Once the new school is built the Village Hall will no longer be needed for school dinners every day, which will free up the building for more community use. The car park will also be useable during school hours.
	Support Village Hall Committee in the future hall expansion / upgrade	High	Long	Parish Council			
Promoting Heritage sites within the parish	Work with English Heritage (for Donnington Castle) & WBC (for Shaw House) to encourage greater awareness & use of events & activities by the local community	Med	Long	Parish Council English Heritage and WBC		93% of respondents have visited Donnington Castle and 70% currently visit Shaw House	The parish is in discussion with English Heritage to set up a 'Friends of Donnington Castle' group. A very successful beacon lighting event was held for the jubilee at Donnington Castle in June 2022, and another is planned for June 2024. EH plans to install more interpretation boards at the Castle, and are in discussion with local historians. There is currently no WBC officer leading on the Shaw House Conservation Area Project (CAMP).

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A Greener Community							
Improve the appearance of local area & support the environment; reduce litter strewn around.	To hold more frequent litter picks & raise awareness of these events & consider providing more rubbish bins in known trouble spots	High	Short	Parish Council		72% of respondents want more Parish investment for Parish litter picks and encouraging youngsters to keep a clean environment. Feedback included requests for more litter bins.	We have reinstated the annual Spring Litter pick, replacement bin put into Castle pub car park; increased litter picking hours for pub car park & rec ground. An autumn litter pick was held for the first time in 2023.
To protect and enhance local environment and wildlife areas in the Parish	Work with Renewal Project to enhance River Lambourn for wildlife	Med	Medium	Parish council	Renewal Project	62% of respondents wanted Parish investment in local schemes to aid local wildlife protection e.g. putting up nesting boxes with BBOWT & wildlife activities	Contact the Renewal Project Organiser & work with them to enhance wildlife on the river Lambourn. Action for River Kennet are holding regular session working on the River Lambourn and holding educational events.
	Work with BBOWT to encourage wildlife e.g. putting up nesting boxes.	Med	Medium	Parish Council	BBOWT		Contact BBOWT to find out how we can work with them to improve wildlife habitat in the Parish
	Wild meadow planting	Med	Medium	Parish Council	Public		Following consultation with local residents a wildlife meadow on Owen Road Field site was planned for Autumn 2022, but implementation postponed due to a lack of local interest
	Work with local schools on nature projects	Med	Medium	Parish Council	Local Schools	Respondents' suggestions for nature projects for schools e.g.: monitoring local air or, a nature project at a local venue	To invite local schools to take part working with us on these projects
Parish local maintenance	Maintain appearance of the parish, in particular overgrown hedges	Med	Long	Parish Council		70+ respondents asked for the cutting back of vegetation over public footpaths and approx. 40 respondents asked for hedge trimming to be increased	When the PC receives complaints from the public, landowners will be contacted and asked that they cut back their hedge. Work to be done at the appropriate time of the year
To provide greater access to allotments in the Parish, for the new housing & for	Work with developers, liaise with the Church regarding allotment space	Med	Medium	Parish Council	Church, Developers	A strong demand for extra allotments and other community garden/planting space	14 new allotments are due to be opened within the west side new development for the benefit of the new home owners.

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people with small or no gardens	Review available space for new future Parish allotments	Med	Medium	Parish Council			The PC has an ongoing project to look at areas of land it can acquire for additional Parish allotments
Environmental wardens	Introduce volunteer environmental wardens	Med	Medium	Parish Council	Public	61% of respondents wanted volunteer environmental wardens across the Parish	Several respondents stated their interest in volunteering, but nobody provided any contact details; not progressed.
A Stronger Community							
Create a community & Parish newsletter	Expand & update current newsletter to include local information & circulate more frequently.	High	Medium	Parish Council	St Mary's Church	100% of respondents want Parish newsletters to continue; 35% want to receive a paper copy and 65% asked for a regular newsletter via email	Letters distributed to residents 3 times a year at present. PC now has an editor for a new style of Parish newsletter to begin in 2024, liaising with the Church to involve the wider local community
	Create an email list to send the newsletter electronically	High	Medium	Parish Council			Newsletters will ask for email addresses to collate an email list for electronic newsletters.
Communication of community & Parish events	Expand use of the Parish website & social media pages, to grow their following & to publicise events	Med	Medium	Parish Council		The Parish newsletter, word of mouth or posters are very effective methods of communication in the Parish; only 10% of respondents currently use the Parish website or Facebook	The PC has already started to post details of events on other local Facebook pages. Summer events have been publicised by newsletter, posters and social media.
Parish Council contact and information	Promote the PC to improve awareness of the Council to parishioners using local noticeboards and its website.	Med	Short	Parish Council		Respondents request for information about Councillors; only 17% use the Parish website or Facebook for contact	Photographs of the parish councillors and clerk are now displayed on the website. In 2023 a new noticeboard was installed in Long Lane.
Community volunteer action group	Make more use and involve Parish volunteers for litter picking & community activities	Med	Medium	Parish Council		Approx. 50% of respondents willing to volunteer for Parish community events, including volunteer action groups on litter, gardening, cleaning, mending/repair and helping out within the Parish	During Covid lockdowns a volunteer group, 'SAFE', was formed to focus on prescriptions & shopping collection for local vulnerable & elderly people. Also made NHS scrubs, headbands & bags. Regular spring litter picks took place in March 2022 and 2023, and a new Autumn one was held in October 2023.

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To liaise with the Church in promoting its activities across the Parish	Work with the Church to publicise their events in PC newsletters, noticeboards, website & social media	Med	Medium	Parish Council	St Mary's Church	79% of respondents did not use the Church facilities. Opportunity to broaden awareness of activities to current and new residents.	Church events are regularly advertised on the PC social media & noticeboards. PC joint delivery of newsletters ongoing - especially at Christmas.
Support the Library Service provided by WBC	To continue to support the service through the precept	Med	Medium	Parish Council	WBC	85% of respondents agreed with PC making annual donations to WBC to support provision of local & mobile library services	The PC has made the recommended contribution to the WBC library service for a number of years.